REMARKS

Reconsideration of the present application is respectfully requested. Claims 1-20 were previously canceled. Claims 21-45 are now pending. In this response, no claim has been amended and no new matter has been added.

Claim Rejections - §112

Claims 21, 27, 34, 35, 40, 44 and 45 stand rejected under 35 USC §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. Specifically, the Examiner alleges that the term "relative" is indefinite and fails to distinctly point out to one skilled in the art, how the fields are to appear (Office Action mailed on November 17, 2005, page 2). Applicants respectfully disagree.

The term "relative" is not indefinite, particularly if it is read with the rest of the claim limitations together. For example, claim 21 recites "... specify a sequence in which the selected fields are to appear relative to each other in a log file ...." Thus, the fields are to appear relative to each other according to a sequence specified. This meaning is clear and definite by reading the claim language as a whole. To require Applicant to recite a specific sequence of fields in the claim would be absurd and is clearly not necessary. Similarly, the phrase "specify a sequence in which the selected fields are to be subsequently output in a log file relative to each" is also clear and definite.

Examiner may be confused about the well-known principle that a relative claim term sometimes renders a claim indefinite. However, the word "relative" is not inherently indefinite, nor is it indefinite in this context.

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Thus, the Examiner improperly rejected claims 21, 27, 34, 35, 40, 44 and 45 under §112. Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to withdraw these §112 rejections.

Claim Rejections - §102

Claims 21-45 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) based on U.S. Patent no. 5,612,898 of Huckins ("Huckins"). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejections.

The present invention generally relates to a method and apparatus that allow a user (e.g., a network administrator) to pre-configure the logging of message fields by a network cache. Among other features, embodiments of the invention give the user the choice to include or exclude particular message fields from a log format for subsequently received messages and give the user the ability to specify the order in which each particular field will appear in a log file.

For example, claim 34 provides:

34.   (Currently amended) A device for logging information in a network cache, the device comprising:
     a user interface to allow a user to select a protocol, to select for logging some or all of a plurality of fields of a message to be received, the fields corresponding to the selected protocol, and to specify a sequence in which the selected fields are to appear relative to each other in a log file;
     a protocol specific application module to obtain information for each selected field associated with the message;
     a protocol independent log module to receive information for each selected field from the protocol specific application module and to store the information for each selected field in a log file **in the sequence specified by the user.**
(Emphasis added.)

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Huckins does not disclose or even suggest a device such as recited in claim 34. In particular, Huckins does not disclose or suggest <u>enabling a user to select a protocol</u>. Further, nowhere does Huckins disclose or suggest <u>enabling a user to select particular fields of a message for logging</u>. In addition, Huckins fails to disclose or suggest <u>enabling a user to specify a sequence in which the selected fields are to appear in a log file</u>. Moreover, Huckins also does not disclose or suggest that a protocol independent log module receives information for each selected field from a protocol specific application module and stores the information for each selected field in a log file <u>in the sequence specified by the user</u>.

In the office action mailed on November 17, 2005, the Examiner fails to point out specifically which part of Huckins teaches or suggests a user interface allowing a user to select a protocol, to select particular fields of a message for logging, or to specify a sequence in which the selected fields are to appear in a log file. In fact, Huckins does not teach or suggest these limitations. Huckins provides a client logging interface with which client components may periodically transfer log data or messages on a log file to provide a debug tracing log of the execution of the client component (column 2, lines 9-13). The client logging interface is <u>an interface between two software modules</u>, the client component 210 and the communication protocol logging system 214 (shown in Figure 2 of Huckins), not a <u>user</u> interface, such as recited in claim 34. Nowhere does Huckins teach or suggest such a user interface allowing a user to <u>select a protocol</u>, much less to <u>select particular fields of a message for logging</u> and to <u>specify a sequence in which the selected fields are to appear in a log file</u>.

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The Examiner refers to Huckins' column 2 lines 31-34 and alleges that the monitoring by which the logging occurs in Huckins is customizable by a user. Huckins' column 2 lines 31-34 disclose that the system in Huckins is dynamically configurable for monitoring interface protocols. The discussion there, however, does not teach or suggest that the logging process in Huckins is customizable by a user. Even assuming *arguendo* that Huckins' logging process is customizable by a user, Huckins does not teach or suggest how to customize it, and certainly not by the steps recited in claim 34.

The Examiner further alleges that Huckins' system allows for the logging of only selected, desired features and refers to column 7 lines 7-23 as support. The cited part of Huckins, however, discloses a means for inhibiting logging events in certain event categories, not selecting particular fields of a message for logging.

In addition, Huckins also does not disclose or suggest that a protocol independent log module receives information for each selected field from a protocol specific application module and stores the information for each selected field in a log file in the sequence specified by the user. The Examiner incorrectly cites Huckins as disclosing this functionality at column 2 lines 31-41. Although column 2 lines 31-41 in Huckins state that the system in Huckins provides a means for variably outputting logged data in various selectable display formats, later discussion in Huckins discloses that such format may be binary or hex format, and it does not teach or suggest that information for each selected field is stored in a log file in a sequence specified by a user.

Therefore, at least for the foregoing reasons, claim 34 is not anticipated by Huckins.

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Each of the other independent claims in the present application includes one or more of the claim features discussed above and is, therefore, patentable over the cited art for reasons discussed above.

Dependent Claims

In view of the above remarks, a specific discussion of the dependent claims is considered to be unnecessary. Therefore, Applicants' silence regarding any dependent claim is not to be interpreted as agreement with, or acquiescence to, the rejection of such claim or as waiving any argument regarding that claim.
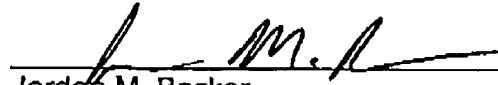
Conclusion

For the foregoing reasons, the present application is believed to be in condition for allowance, and such action is earnestly requested.

If there are any additional charges, please charge Deposit Account No. 02-2666.

Respectfully submitted,

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